REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in light of the preceding amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested. Claims 1, 3-7 and 15-42 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 3, 15-22, 25 and 28-31 are amended. Claims 32-42 are newly added. Applicants submit that no new matter is added by the claim amendments and/or new claims.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 101

Claims 1, 3-7, and 15-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 because the Office Action alleges the claims are directed to non-statutory subject matter. In particular, the Office Action asserts that claims 1, 3-7, and 15-17 recite a computer readable medium which does not impart functionality to a computer or computing device, and is thus considered nonfunctional descriptive material. Initially, Applicants maintain the previous arguments submitted in the Request for Reconsideration filed January 31, 2008 are relevant and still believed sufficient to overcome this rejection.

However, in the interest of expediting prosecution, Applicants have further amended the preamble of the claim to recite a "computer-readable medium storing an executable data structure for managing reproduction of at least video data having multiple reproduction paths recorded on the computer-readable medium by a reproducing device." This amendment is believed to further clarify the claim is directed towards statutory subject matter. In particular, the executable data structure allows a reproducing device to manage video data stored on the computer-readable medium. In view of the above, Applicants respectfully request the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 101 be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 3-7, and 16-31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sato in view of Kaneshige et al. (US 6,031,962, hereinafter Kaneshige). Applicants respectfully traverse this of rejection.

Initially, Applicants note claim 1 is amended and now recites the following.

> 1. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium storing an executable data structure for managing reproduction of at least video data having multiple reproduction paths recorded on the computer-readable medium by a reproducing device, comprising:
>
> *one or more management areas for storing at least one entry point map associated with each reproduction path, each entry point map for identifying entry points in the video data for the associated reproduction path, the one or more management areas being separate from a data area storing video data,*
>
> wherein the *entry point map includes path change information having a plurality of fields, each field associated with an entry point, and*
>
> *the path change information includes a field for identifying whether a change in reproduction path is permitted in relation to the entry point and a field for identifying where changes in reproducing at least one of the reproduction paths of video data are permitted.*

Applicants submit that at least the above-emphasized features of amended independent claim 1 and similar features of independent claims 18-22 patentably distinguish over the cited references of Sato and Kaneshige as further detailed below.

The Office Action asserts that Sato teaches path change information and cites Fig. 20 of Sato. However, Applicants note the path change information recited in amended claim 1 includes both a field for identifying whether a change in reproduction path is permitted in relation to the entry point and a field for identifying where changes in reproducing at least one of the reproduction paths of video data are permitted. Applicants submit that Fig. 20 of Sato only teaches angle information for seamless/non-seamless and whether angle change is seamless or not. Applicants submit that Sato fails to teach a field relating to whether or not the angle change is permitted. Accordingly, Applicants submit that Sato fails to teach a field identifying whether or not the angle change is permitted as well as another field for identifying where changes in reproducing at least one of the reproduction paths of video data

are permitted. Further, Applicants note the Office Action acknowledges on page 4 that Sato does not disclose one or more management areas being separate from a data area storing the video data. Thus, Applicants submit that Sato fails to teach at least the above-emphasized features of amended claim 1 or the similar features of independent claims 18-22.

The Office Action relies on Kaneshige as teaching the one or more management areas being separate from a data area storing the video data, at least one entry point map associated with each reproduction path, and each entry point map identifying entry points in the video data for the associated reproduction path. In particular, the Office Action cites column 15, lines 29-31, Fig. 16 and Fig. 26 as teaching these features. Column 15, lines 29-31 states "VTS_PTT_SRPT is a video title set part-of-title search pointer table, in which entry points of titles and the like are described.

Applicants submit that the cited portions Kaneshige do not disclose the entry point map, instead, Kaneshige merely teaches entry points of the title. Applicants also submit Kaneshige generally discloses angle information but does not disclose path change information. Here, the angle information may be stored in NV-pack as mentioned column 17 line 55 – column 18 line 5 of Kaneshige, and the NV-pack is included in data area as shown in Figs. 17 and 32. Accordingly, Kaneshige does not teach "one or more management area being separate from a data area storing the video data".

Moreover, seamless angle information (non-seamless angle information) in Fig 32 of Kaneshige corresponds to angle information for seamless (angle information for non-seamless) in Fig. 20 of Sato. Accordingly, even if the combination of Sato and Kaneshige is proper, which Applicants do not admit, the angle information would appear to be stored in data area.

Furthermore, Applicants maintain that neither Sato nor Kaneshige teaches or mentions at least one entry point map is associated with each reproduction path and each field is associated with the entry point.

In light of the above, Applicants submit that neither Sato nor Kaneshige, either alone or in any proper combination, disclose, teach or suggest all features recited in the independent claims of this application. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the rejections of claims 1, 3-7, and 15-31 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

Claim 15 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sato in view of Kaneshige in view of Sawabe et al. (U.S. 6,031,962, hereinafter Sawabe). Applicants note that claim 15 depends from claim 1 and that Sawabe fails to cure the above-identified deficiencies of Sato and Kaneshige as discussed above with respect to independent claim 1. Therefore, Applicants request the rejection of claim 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

New Claims

Applicants request consideration and allowance of each of new claims 32-42.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the objections and rejections and allowance of each of the claims in connection with the present application is earnestly solicited.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a), Applicant(s) hereby petition(s) for a one (1) month extension of time for filing a reply to the outstanding Office Action and submit the required $120 extension fee herewith.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Gary D. Yacura at the telephone number of the undersigned below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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For

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